

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

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SUBJECT Soviet Troops in Western Hungary

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REFERENCES

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1. Szombathely

- a. The Russian railroad command is in two rooms in the Szombathely railroad station. It consists of three officers and seven noncommissioned officers. Whenever a train comes in, Russian military police appear in front of and behind the station, wearing red arm bands. The first and second class waiting rooms have been taken over by the Russians as lunch rooms and comfort stations.

b.

- 1) There are 120 cars in Szt. István Park, 32 of them passenger cars.

- 2) There are 32 T-34 tanks in Egredéves Park,

- 3) There are 22 T-34 tanks in the city gardens,

- 4) There are 18 J.P. tanks in Hérics kert,

- 5) At the Haladás Sport Club training field, there are 31 T-34 tanks,

- c. In the fall of 1952, the tank repair shops were moved from the barracks on Paragvári út to the Reich machine shop. Hungarian civilians were added to the Russian staff. Some of these say that early in the spring of 1953,

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many new motors were received, which were systematically exchanged for the other motors in all the tanks. Ten or 12 tanks are in the shops constantly, getting this change.

- d. Trucks are repaired at the Mayer machine shop, where the Russians also have a school for mechanics.
- e. Southwest of the village of Perint, at the crossing of the Nárái and Ják roads is the obstacle course for Russian tanks. There are various types of tank traps and barriers here, including concrete blocks with projecting sections of railroad rails.
- f. There is a Russian camp with some barracks near the Ják road in the so-called Ják erdő. Observation was difficult because the area was guarded. However, it was possible to establish that the place is occupied by about 800 Russians with black shoulder boards, decorated in red and that they have tanks. Nine of these tanks, accompanied by about 200 infantry troops, were observed conducting exercises in the Perint obstacle course.
- g. There are now no jet fighters at the Söpte Airfield. The airfield is used by the Maszoviet, one of whose planes arrives daily at 9 a.m. The field has no runway and no hangars. There are two buildings, one of which is occupied by a waiting room, offices, weather and radio station and the other by the police guard and garages.
- h. At Vép there is an emergency airfield 1,200 by 800 m., grass-covered and without buildings. During the summer, Russian fighters often come there, make a landing and then take off.
- i. The MVD command in Szombathely is in the county house and two adjoining villas on Vass József körút. It consists of 10 to 12 officers and 40 to 50 men.
- j. There are about 300 Hungarian border guard troops in the former Annunziata cloister. There is a good deal of coming and going, so the strength changes constantly.
- k. The AVH men with blue cap bands are in the barracks on the north side of Söptei út, near the airfield. There are about 800 men there. They have armored cars, Maxim machine guns and mortars, both 50 and 82 mm.
- l. There is a Russian high command [REDACTED] in the infantry barracks on Kalvaria út.
- m. In the late afternoon of 15 March 1953 there landed at Söpte Airfield a two-motored Russian Army plane, which bore Russian officers of high rank, who [REDACTED] went into the town followed by a jeep [REDACTED].
- n. There is a Russian general living in a villa on Rumi-út.
- o. A Russian armored regiment with headquarters, regimental troops and all three battalions, 120 to 130 officers and 1,500 to 1,600 men is in the Hussar Barracks on 11-es Huszárok útja. The shoulder boards are black, red-decorated and bear a tank insignia. The men seem to be 20 to 25 years old. These troops go for exercises to Nagygenos or Torony, usually in units of two or three tanks. The name of one officer is Capt. Vasile TSHERKOVSKI. There are only 10 to 12 tanks at the barracks, all T-34/85s. [REDACTED]
- p. The staff of an armored unit and about 700 men are in the former gendarmery barracks. They are mostly young men of 18 to 20, who never go into town. The exercise area is at Olad. The tanks belonging to the unit are not at the barracks but in the Herinskert Park. [REDACTED]

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q. In the barracks on Paragvári ut is a Russian artillery regimental staff, with a motorized howitzer section (12 122 mm. howitzers), a S/P gun section (21 SU-152s), and a mortar section with 120 mm. mortars. The total strength is 150 officers and 900 men. The shoulder boards are decorated in red. The men are about 20 to 25 years old. The howitzer section arrived after the fall maneuvers of 1952, the other troops in February 1953. The artillery troops that previously occupied the barracks left by railroad. Commander of the mortar section is Major SAKREVITCH (fnu), [REDACTED]

r. A telegraph and scouting battalion is quartered in the barracks on Zanáti ut. There is a good deal of movement of radio cars and other special cars. In addition motorcycles frequently come and go, with armored cars, up to 12 in a group, and up to nine T-34 tanks.

s. About 200 armored troops and 200 military police are quartered in the former notarial school. Another 200 Russians with black shoulder boards with red decoration are in the elementary school. These men seem to belong to the unit which has its headquarters in the gendarmery barracks. [REDACTED]

t. The Komatics Inn and the boys' school have been evacuated by the Russians.

u. The gymnasium on Faludi utca has been made into a military hospital, with 500 beds.

x. The Russian food depot is on Söptei ut. [REDACTED]

y. The underground gasoline dump is near the Szombathely-Kőszeg railroad line.

2. Kőrmend

a. A Russian armored regiment with its staff and two battalions (altogether about 100 officers and 800 enlisted men) is in the Batthyányi Castle. The regiment took up these quarters after the maneuvers in the fall of 1952. The men are 23 to 24 years old. They wear black shoulder boards with red decoration and the armor insignia.

b. The troops march out daily in sections of 70 to 80 men, usually accompanied by two or three tanks, and conduct exercise on the ground south of the town between the railroad line and the road, using only light machine guns and machine pistols. [REDACTED]

c. A Russian motorized rifle battalion, of 20 to 25 officers and 400 to 450 men, has been in the Frigyes Barracks since February 1953. The men are about 18 to 20 years old. They conduct exercises in the area south of the town (see 2b). They have both light and heavy machine guns, 50 mm. and 82 mm. mortars and heavy towed AT guns. In the park near the barracks, there can be observed 12 personnel carriers. [REDACTED]

Kőrmend is off limits to this unit.

d. In the former sawmill, there is another motorized rifle battalion of about 20 officers and 500 men. They are between 23 and 25 years old. They conducted daily exercises in the area south of the town, marching out in sections of 70 to 80 men accompanied by tanks. At the park plaza there are 36 T-34 tanks [REDACTED]

e. The MVD command is in the former court building, with a staff of 20 to 25.

f. Commander of the regiment in Batthyányi Castle is Col. Sergei LERNILEV.

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- g. There is a Hungarian air warning post in Also-Berki, just west of Kőrmend. It is a tall wooden tower with a bunker at its foot which serves as quarters. Commander is Staff Sergeant Agoston BIRÓ. There are nine men, 22 to 23 years old. This post is subordinated to the air defense center at Zalaegerszeg, and is connected with it telephonically. The post has an R/6 radio station. The shoulder boards are red.

3. Kőszeg

- a. There is a Russian motorized rifle regiment in the Jurisics Barracks, with regimental troops and one battalion. The total strength is 60 officers and about 800 men. The men appear to be 23 to 25 years old. Black shoulder boards. The unit has been there since the fall maneuvers of 1952.
- b. The troops move out daily for exercises in groups of 70 to 80 men to the Kőszeg-Domoszló neighborhood or in the Horvátzsidány region. In addition to their personal weapons these groups take four or five heavy machineguns, six to nine automatic rifles and 50 mm. mortars. On at least one occasion a motorized section accompanied them, consisting of 76.2 mm. guns, towed by trucks, each of which held 18 men, 82 mm. mortars on trailers towed by trucks which held 16 men, a radio car, about 60 motorcyclists. [REDACTED]
- c. There is a unit of tanks and AAA, 1,000 to 1,200 men strong in the former military high school. The armor has been there since the maneuvers of 1952, while the AAA unit moved in in February 1953.
- d. In the park near this school there are 36 T-34 tanks and 12 Dodge-type trucks. [REDACTED]
- e. An AVH headquarters with its troops has been established in the former Catholic girls' home.
- f. Russian officers' families have been established in the former officers' quarters. [REDACTED]

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